



QCWA HOT-LINE REPORT

September - December 1996

Volume 18, No. 3

Chapter Reports

We will start on the Chapter reports in late November and have all of them out by the middle of December. This is the annual report of the Chapters to QCWA and from those reports we then print a listing of all the Chapters and their Secretaries, by State and/or country, so that new members can find a Chapter near their home. This listing goes out to all new members during the year.

The format will be quite like the one used last year. Please give us all the information called for and if at all possible, do it on the form we send to you and type the information. Some of you are like me, the writing is getting bad. Please, do not send this by e-mail or a disk with the file on it. It just doesn't fit into the notebook very well.

1997 DIRECTORY

There has been a great deal of conversation and studies on the issuance of a Directory in 1997 for the 50th Anniversary of the Quarter Century Wireless Assn. Inc. The basic concern is that this project costs some 24,000 and then there is a humungus postage bill on top of that to mail to everyone in QCWA. There seems to be concern about just how many of our members use the Directory and the replies we get are very strong both for and against. The most viable solution is to publish the Directory in a loose leaf format, punched for insertion in a member supplied notebook. The plan then proceeds to provide for an update of approximately one-third of the listings each year thereafter.

For this first year, we will supply this form of the Directory to those who request it prior to May 1, 1997 at no cost. After that date there will be a charge of \$7.00 to cover printing and mailing costs.

In the future there may be a possibility of publishing such information on the Internet, but at this time there is not enough security present to do this listing.

Ottawa Convention

The convention is over and it was well attended and a complete success for our organization. If you were one of those that just didn't get around to attending, you missed one of the best events that we have experienced. The Canadians really went all out to coordinate this event. At the banquet, the lights dimmed and in marched all the food servers with Baked Alaska with sparklers lit, to serve the dessert. A real spectacle. You should have been there.

They had a number of seminars and all were standing room only. The accommodations were fine and the hotel restaurant knew how to cook, which seems to be a rarity in this day and age.

Mailing

This has been mentioned in the past, but we are still on the campaign to obtain proper addresses for all of our members. We subscribe to a mailing program and each quarter before we mail, a file is made of all those members that are to receive the Journal. This file is then processed through the mailing program to check the addresses and ZIP + 4 corrections. This takes about two hours of computer time. Out of some 10,000 addresses we still have some 300 + addresses that the software cannot compare with the US Post Office listings. I have written to some of these people to try and get a correction and it seems that in some places the Post Office just hasn't caught up with the growth of the community.

As of January 1, 1997, we have to have 100% of our records checked for zip + 4 and any that are not certified are mailed at a different rate. The certified ones go at the non-profit rate. When you are mailing Journals this is a lot of money for postage, to start with, without having some 300 go at a higher rate because we cannot do a zip + 4 properly on their address for the mailing. The other side of this is that the Post Office will be able to handle the mail better and perhaps it will get delivered faster than in the past.

My request is for each of our members to check their proper mailing address and compare that with the one on the label of your next Journal.

1997 Activities:

This mailing of the HLR is going out in an envelope for I want to include some pages about the 1997 QSO parties. A copy of the rules will be included and these rules are just for this one anniversary year party of 1997. Also, a newly designed log page to 'fit' the program for 1997 and a 'check sheet' page with a list of states, provinces and Chapter numbers. These last two pages will probably be almost the same in following years.

So, with these pages going out to you officers, they will be available for you to copy for your members to use in the 1997 QSO parties.

Another enclosure, and a year-long event, will be a recruiting program slanted towards the Chapters and their members. A copy of that proposal will also be included, so that you can provide them to your membership.

Remember 1997 is our 50th Anniversary of the Quarter Century Wireless Assn., Inc. and the convention will be in Kansas City in October of 1997. Make your plans now to schedule a little time out of your busy schedule so that you can attend the convention in Kansas City. Just think of all those old friends you will get to see, and best of all, all those new friends you will get to make. See you there.



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Internet

This will appear in the Winter Journal, but I may as well repeat it here in the HLR. I have already changed my e-mail address and we have just about completed moving the QCWA Home Page to the same server. My address is: "jwalsh@teleport.com" and the QCWA Home page address is :"http://www.teleport.com/~qcwa/". We will leave a forwarding address on .efn.org giving the new address but until that is done please spread this change for us. One of our problems is that we lost a number of communications through .efn and just as we were moving all the files for the Home Page they had a server crash and it is a question as to whether the files can be found again.

For the last several weeks, and along with the advance of the vanity call sign operation, our e-mail count has really climbed. We receive about 30 messages a day. Probably 2/3 of them are call sign changes and the balance are questions and requests for application or electronic applications being sent through the Home page. I see a large number of our people going to juno.com for their e-mail operations. This is strictly an e-mail application, no browsing, and costs nothing. There will be an article in the Journal about this service.

All but one of our Board members have e-mail and/or FAX facilities and what a good thing that is for the Board operation. Files can be transferred and worked on and returned all in literally the wink of an eye. I am constantly amazed at what has taken place in the last couple of years. Another item that is developing .. I am keeping a log of all our members and their e-mail addresses, as they come in to Headquarters. More and more of our Chapter officers are coming on line, so business for the Chapters is much quicker than it has ever been. What a lot of postage is being saved and time is also minimized when they need some information for a Chapter meeting and function. The word has been spread that QCWA has a large collection of Callbooks and get in touch with them if you need some information on a callsign.

A request, if you have any older Callbooks, and you are thinking of getting rid of them, PLEASE send them to Headquarters. We have Callbooks back to 1915, and what a nice handy volume that was. There were not too many amateurs at that time so they listed by name and then by call for each call area at that time. If they did that now, the Callbook would be six inches thick.

W2MM Schedule

During the QSO parties in 1997, W2MM will have a special schedule. We will operate on 20, 40 and 80 meters during the following hours.

20 meters	2100 - 2300
40 meters	2300 - 0100
80 meters	0100 - 0300

These times are "zulu" times and may be modified if the propagation decides to improve by that time. W2MM will have a special multiplier for everyone and we will QSL, just send us a pre-addressed SASE.

QCWA Objectives

One of my principal objectives is to increase the membership of our Association. I did a little homework recently, and found that over the last five years QCWA recruited a little over 4,000 new members. During that same period approximately 2,200 Silent Keys were reported. Yet, the number of active, dues-paying members remains virtually unchanged. This means to me that too many of our members are not renewing. How do we retain and regain these ex-members, and improve the effectiveness of recruiting to attract increased numbers of new members?

Elsewhere in this issue of Hotlines there is information on a recruiting contest which will run throughout 1997, and we hope that this will help. This contest requires initiative and aggressiveness at Chapter level to find new members, and to "re-enlist" former members.

National advertising of QCWA is much too expensive. Think of how much we would have to pay for an adequate description of the who, what and why of QCWA, and the advantages of QCWA membership. An excellent pamphlet on this subject is available, written by President Emeritus Leland Smith, and can be obtained from Hq. for the asking. Large-scale printing and distribution of this publication, as giveaways at meetings, hamfests etc., would be inordinately expensive. However, a few chapters have begun producing their own version of this material, on both sides of a single sheet, for giveaways. Once a "master" is available it can be reproduced at minimal cost (for almost nothing if you have access to a copy machine).

Another approach is to invite prospective members to your Chapter meetings and other activities. Yes, I'm aware of the endless controversy about "If you don't have your 25 years, you can't be a member"; but that shouldn't prevent us from being cordial and inviting these prospects to see first-hand who we are and how we operate.

These are just ideas on approaches which can be used, at Chapter level, to gain new members. I'm sure that many Chapters have other ideas. How about sharing them with the Board? Write to me and I'll see that every Board member gets a copy of your comments.

John Kelleher, W4ZC
President

Taping for the Blind

Again, I would like to call your attention to the taping program which we run for the benefit of our sight impaired members. The list slowly continues to have members added and we would like to see the 'word' get out to all of our members who could use this service.

Contact: Blanche Randles, W4GXZ
6002 N Fremont
Tampa FL 33604

or write to Headquarters just let us know their names and calls.



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Chapters and Memorial Scholarship Fund

A consistent effort is showing up in the Scholarship growth figures. This is the practice of Chapters making an annual donation to the fund to honor their SKs during the year. The amounts vary greatly, but that is not important, what is important is the constant effort to make the contribution each year.

One of the first Chapters to start this procedure was my own Chapter, the Beaver State Chapter, #108. As an item of business each Fall meeting a motion is made to make the contribution.

I would encourage more Chapters to inspect their treasury and make an annual donation to the Memorial Scholarship Fund. If you look at the Memorial Contribution column in the QCWA Journal you will find a number of Chapters contributing, some in honor of their SK members, but also a number just making the contribution to the fund. Is your Chapter listed in this column?

As of the time of writing this, our Memorial Scholarship Fund was at a level of \$ 169,140, and the year is not over yet. This great boost came in the last month when we received a substantial check in memory of one of our former Board members, Travis Baird, W9VQD.

The following is an e-mail which I just received and I am going to print it verbatim.

Return-Path: w0qni@juno.com
To: jwalsh@efn.org
Subject: Emery Boring, W6IIF

Dear Jim:

You may have received information of IIF, I do not know if he was a QCWA member or not. This is a true story as it happened. I believe that Moody, WQ6I did forwarded it to ARRL, but I think it has its place in the "Journal"

IT REALLY DOES HAPPEN, or A Hams Last Wish..

10-29-96. 3908 kc. 400Z

"CQ, CQ, CQ This is the Tuesday night edition of the Friendly Bunch or the Western Amateur Radio Friendship Net." This is your host and net control W0QNI, Bill in Novato, CA.

Tuesday night's net of the Friendly bunch started out as usual with a horde of stations all trying to check in at the same time. I was able to grab 6 from the multitude to start with. KM6VT was first to check in followed by 5 others, the last of this bunch was W6IIF. I checked my data base and found that he had never checked into the friendly bunch before. When it came his turn, at about 15 after the hour, I asked him to give us his QTH and handle and welcomed him the Friendship Net. When he made his transmission, I was really taken aback. Below is an abstract

quote,

"Hello to the friendly bunch. This is W6IIF in Klamath Falls, Org. This station belongs to my father, Emery. I'm Bob, K6YGI. It is my father's wish to listen to the Friendship Net, as he is not able to talk and is in bed next to the radio.. My brother, Paul, WA6WYD is also in the shack. Its a great net." (I found out later that Pauls' wife is N7HLB)

I realized that something very special was happening, but I was not sure. It was just to hard to believe. There was a few seconds of silence on my part, then I responded that I was very pleased that Emery had stopped by and wished him the best. Bill, WB6WXF; Marko, W6PCH; and Moody, WQ6I, then wished him well. Moody also said that we should all be very honored that Emery stopped by.

Bob, acknowledging all, then said:

"This will be the last transmission EVER from W6IIF."

At this point I realized that this was the man's last wish. We have all heard stories how a ham spends his last hours, but here is one that is true.

Late that night, I talked to Moody. He said that it hit him like a ton of bricks, He realized what was going on before the second transmission from IIF. VE7IBV, Peter in Deroche, B.C. Canada, also heard the exchanges and told me the he felt the bottom of his stomach was a giant pit.

10-30-96

Wed. morning I called Lyle, KB7YQX in Klamath Falls, and asked him to give me more information about Emery. He referred me to Dick, K7DDI. I placed a call to him and left a message on his answering machine, saying who I was and that I would appreciate any information on Emery.

10-31-96

As a QST to the Thursday night edition of the "Friendly Bunch", I told them that Emery was in very critical condition.

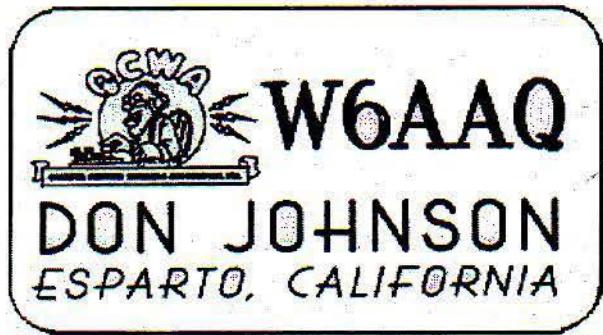
11-1-96

Friday morning I decided to call Emery's home. I reached his wife and she told me that he was in very Critical condition and had not been responding to anything since Wed. Morning, I told her who I was and she said yes, that she remembered Tuesday night's net as being the last thing Emery had responded to.

Friday night, Dick, K7DDI called me at about 9:45pm. He said that Don, Emery's son had called and that Emery passed away about one hour before. Dick did confirm that indeed the last conscious moment that Emery was aware of, was the friendship net. I told Dick to convey to the family that our prayers were with them from all the Friendly Bunch and WARFA. Later that night I passed on the information to the informal get together on 3908. On Sundays' night net I again gave out a QST as to Emery.

I wish I had known this man. What I have learned about him was that he was the type of person, if you had a problem

Your Official QCWA Badge



Many of you have asked and now we have an official QCWA Badge for you to wear at amateur functions.

It is white with black letters and the above is an actual size reproduction. This badge is totally engraved, no 'hot press', and so it should last a lifetime.

The order blank is printed below. It comes with a standard clip and a bola clip.

Note that you may order it with a pocket clip at an additional cost

Bola ties are also available.

Call _____

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Indicate whether you want your City/State or your Chapter name and Number as bottom line on badge.

1. City and State _____

OR

2. Chapter Name and Number _____

Badge..... \$7.00

Pocket Clip (\$2.00).....

Bola Ties (\$2.50).....

Bola tie color (circle one): Black, Blue,

Brown, Green, Red and White.

Total Cost.....

Complete in full and mail with your check to:

QCWA, 159 East 16th, Eugene, OR 97401-4017

(Contd from page 3, W6IIF)

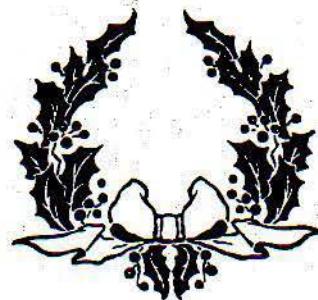
with a rig, Emery Boring was there to help. Emery helped develop radar equipment in WW 2 and worked for Hickok Instruments as an engineer for 31 years. He was a member of the ARRL for over 60 years. He died at the age of 84. He had been sick only a short time and died of Prostate cancer.

Emery, we know that you are looking down on us, you made a lot of us think about our last moments, and what it would be like.

God Speed my friend.

>From Bill - WOQNI - Net control for the Western Section of WARFA and Truly, the Friendliest Bunch around.

Emery Boring was a member of QCWA since 1962 and also belonged to the Klamath Falls Chapter, the Lost River Chapter # 188. In looking at the calls listed I find a number of our QCWA friends involved in this event. This may have arrived too late to be included in the next issue of the Journal but felt that everyone would appreciate reading this story of his last moments with us.



From Headquarters, we wish all of you a very pleasant Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. This is a special year for QCWA, let us all join to make it a memorable celebration of the 50th year of QCWA.

Plan now for the Annual Convention in Kansas City in October of 1997.

Show the 'colors' at amateur meets across the country. Ask for a "CARE" package from Headquarters and have a table at a local affair and tell about QCWA. Don't just hand out applications .. help them to fill it out at the table and get it in the mail to Headquarters... then they are a part of the membership.

Enter into the project of getting new members .. get a certificate for your active participation and if you are involved with a Chapter, they could get one also. These prospective members are waiting for you to extend a hand to help them into membership. Let them join with those who are proud of their twenty-five years, at least, active participation in amateur radio and are proud of it.

Let us all try and make this coming year of 1997 a memorable year for QCWA.

Jim Walsh, W7LVM

Jan Hayter, Office Manager